

Message

From: Compher, Michael [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=E258CB856E3D4AE6BACCA7FA48CA827A-MCOMPHER]
Sent: 2/19/2019 1:26:57 PM
To: Nam, Ed [nam.ed@epa.gov]; Siegel, Kathryn [siegel.kathryn@epa.gov]
CC: Furey, Eileen [furey.eileen@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: First Draft Statement

Ed - Everything you state is correct. For your information, not necessarily to add – OAQPS must have had or heard about the data from Willowbrook's contractors. Last Thursday morning Lew reached out to me and asked for a recent download of MET data, he said "would it be possible to refresh the met data file from Feb 3 to more recent days? The Willowbrook folks are asking us about some events in February and the met data would be helpful. Thanks!" After receiving the message, I sent Scott out mid-morning Thursday with a laptop to download the data from the roof of the COOP and he sent it to OAQPS. R5 was not informed of any details from Willowbrook's contractors or OAQPS.

We did deploy canisters on Feb 5th, and picked up on the 6th, so we should have several collocated samples with Willowbrook for the high day.

Michael Compher
Chief, Air Monitoring and Analysis Section
Region 5 Air and Radiation Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: 312-886-5745

From: Nam, Ed
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 2:27 PM
To: Siegel, Kathryn <siegel.kathryn@epa.gov>; Compher, Michael <compher.michael@epa.gov>
Cc: Furey, Eileen <furey.eileen@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: First Draft Statement

Michael,

Please Let me know if I've written anything incorrect below.

Thanks
-Ed

From: Nam, Ed
Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 2:26 PM
To: Stepp, Cathy <stepp.cathy@epa.gov>; Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>
Cc: Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: First Draft Statement

Here's what I know (and can speculate on):

- R5 did NOT get the data before the announcement was made.
- The announcement was made based on data collected by the contractor working for the city of Willowbrook (GHD) on Feb 5-6.
- The data that was posted was just part of a table as part of the announcement. There was no contractor report like the earlier data release from Willowbrook and Burr Ridge taken on Nov 16 and 13th respectively.

- The city claims that the recent data was QA/QC'd by the contractor, but I have been unable to find a contractor report testifying to this.
- OAQPS has been working on setting up a meeting between the three testing contractors to compare processes and QA/QC procedures. This includes ERG (EPA's), Ramboll (Sterigenic's), and GHD (Willowbrook/Burr Ridge's). That meeting has NOT occurred yet, so OAQPS would most likely NOT be able to attest to the quality of the Willowbrook data anytime soon (if ever).
- The next batch of data that OAQPS was planning on releasing soon was data collected by EPA between Jan 1 and Jan 17. Though the data may change between when I saw it a few days ago and when it's released, there were some high days similar to those found in December, but nowhere near the Feb 5-6 highs reported by Willowbrook yesterday. So as far as I know, the agency is not yet ready to talk about the Feb 5-6 data reported by Willowbrook or collected by EPA.
- On Feb 5-6 I believe that the city and EPA had some co-located canisters, so hopefully we should have independent verification of some of these unusually high readings, but I don't know when that would be. Based on our reporting schedule so far, I would have guessed that we wouldn't report those early Feb QA/QC'd results until March. I'm guessing that there will be desire now to expedite the analysis of that particular day sooner(?)

-Ed

From: Stepp, Cathy

Sent: Saturday, February 16, 2019 2:03 PM

To: Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov>

Cc: Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov>; Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Kelley, Jeff <kelley.jeff@epa.gov>; Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: First Draft Statement

Thanks guys

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 1:47 PM, Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov> wrote:

Fair points. To clarify, EPA would only authenticate its own data and would say nothing about other data is this affidavit. The point I was trying to make (not very well) was that, if EPA winds up not being able to provide an affidavit about the EPA data, there is still other data the state could look to to make its showing.

I'll definitely loop in Mike when I get something.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 1:40 PM, Thiede, Kurt <thiede.kurt@epa.gov> wrote:

There seems to be some mixing of data, there is of course out canister data, but there is also data collected by the village that we hadn't seen. Ed, correct me if I'm wrong in that.

I'd be cautious about committing to verifying the data until we all know we are talking about the same data and have a chance to discuss the collection and analysis. I think that meeting was supposed to get set up as well.

Given that dynamic, I'd loop Mike Koerber in along with Patrick and Justin when we get their request.

Thanks Rett.

Kurt Thiede
Chief of Staff
EPA Region 5

Sent from my iPhone...please excuse my typos.

On Feb 16, 2019, at 1:28 PM, Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov> wrote:

I spoke with Beth at the AG's office. She is expecting that on Tuesday the company will attempt to get the seal order lifted, most likely by getting some sort of injunction from a state court judge. Some uncertainty of course on how exactly this will play out (and in what forum).

Beth wanted to talk about EPA providing an affidavit on the validity of the data. She will send me a draft of what they are thinking. When I get it I plan to send it to you all, to Patrick in OECA, and to Justin in OGC, unless you want me to hold off. When the affidavit would be needed depends on what happens in court on Tuesday. There is non-EPA data she can rely on, but EPA data is perceived as the most reliable.

That was it from the call.

-Rett

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 10:51 AM, Nelson, Leverett <nelson.leverett@epa.gov> wrote:

Fine. Also wanted you to know that Beth Wallace of the Illinois AG's office asked me to call her today. I can do so. I suspect she will ask that EPA send the confidentiality agreement to her for signature, or perhaps she will provide clarity on what an EPA affidavit might look like to authenticate the EtO data. I will report out after the call. I will be in listening mode only.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 10:23 AM, Nam, Ed <nam.ed@epa.gov> wrote:

I like it too. Should we work in "cooperative federalism"?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at 10:07 AM, Newton, Cheryl <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov> wrote:

Joining late but no
additional comments.
Thanks!

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 16, 2019, at
9:36 AM, Nelson,
Leverett
<nelson.leverett@epa.gov>
wrote:

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Kurt
<thiede.kurt@epa.gov>
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